Reviewer’s report

Title: Cardiac valve calcification and risk of cardiovascular or all-cause mortality in dialysis patients: A meta-analysis

Version: 3 Date: 20 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Maurizio Alberto Gallieni

Reviewer’s report:

This manuscript deals with a relevant issue in CKD patients, i.e. the association between cardiovascular calcifications and increased risk of morbidity and mortality.

The manuscript appears to be a revision prepared after peer review from other reviewers. I agree that it is worth publishing. Although it does not add substantial information to the established association between cardiac calcifications and unfavorable outcomes, it has the strength of the study design (a metanalysis) and of a large patient population.

I only have two minor observations:

1. The 2012 article by Bellasi et al is cited twice in the manuscript (ref 4 and 24): please correct

2. I respectfully suggest to include in the analysis, if the Authors agree, our prospective study on cardiovascular calcifications in peritoneal dialysis patients: Gallieni M, Caputo, F, Filippini A, et al. Prevalence and progression of cardiovascular calcifications in peritoneal dialysis patients: A prospective study. Bone, 2012; 51(3):332-337. This article included an evaluation of cardiac valves calcifications in 369 patients, which was repeated after 36 months in 145 patients. Mortality data were reported.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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